



Express Mail No. EV 463362109 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

TULLER, Mitchell et al.

Application No.

09/587,826

Filed:

June 6, 2000

For:

**METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR
AUTOMATED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL**

Examiner:

Bayard, Djeneane M.

Group Art Unit:

2141

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REMARKS

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed September 24, 2004. A Request for Continued Examination and fee are being filed herewith.

The Final Office Action for this application was issued September 24, 2004, setting a three-month period for response which expired on December 24, 2004, absent an extension of time. On March 23, 2005, Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal with a request and fee for three months extension of time extending the period for response to March 24, 2005. An Appeal Brief was therefore due by May 23, 2005, absent an extension of time. A Request for Continued Examination with a request and fee for four months extension of time extending the period for response to September 23, 2005 is filed herewith in lieu of an Appeal Brief. Accordingly, this application is pending today, and the Request for Continued Examination and this Amendment are timely filed.

Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification—no amendments to the Specification are sought herein.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings—no amendments to the Drawings are sought herein.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 17 of this paper.